

PHYLLOSTICTA LEAF SPOT OF VIRGINIA CREEPER

N. E. El-Gholl, S. A. Alfieri, Jr., and C. L. Schoulties¹

Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (L.) Planch, is a high-climbing vine with palmate leaves and many tendrils with adhesive disks that become attached upon contact to surfaces of solid support. Its preferred habitats are dry, rocky or rich woods, hammocks, and low ground, and its range includes the northeastern United States to Florida, Texas, Mexico, and Central America (3,4), as well as Indiana, Illinois, and Minnesota (1).

Relatively few leaf spot-inducing pathogens affect Virginia creeper (6,7). Of these, perhaps the most common is the fungus *Phyllosticta labruscae* Thuem. (2,5). It occurs more frequently on young, expanding leaves, and is rarely observed on the youngest tip leaves or fully mature leaves.

SYMPTOMS. Leaf spots are subcircular, and brown with a thin, darker brown margin and no yellow halo. The lesions tend to remain distinct without coalescing and expand up to a diameter of 4-5 mm (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. *Phyllosticta* leaf spot of Virginia creeper. (DPI Photo #702532)

¹Plant Pathologists, Bureau of Plant Pathology, P. O. Box 1269, Gainesville, FL 32602.

CONTROL. No control is considered necessary since Virginia creeper is not usually cultivated.

SURVEY AND DETECTION. The appearance of brown subcircular leaf spots with no halo and up to 5 mm in diameter is evidence of this disease.

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